

**LEGISLATIVE SERVICES AGENCY  
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**FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT**

**LS 6526**

**BILL NUMBER:** SB 226

**NOTE PREPARED:** Dec 23, 2014

**BILL AMENDED:**

**SUBJECT:** Wild Animal Permits.

**FIRST AUTHOR:** Sen. Crider

**FIRST SPONSOR:**

**BILL STATUS:** As Introduced

**FUNDS AFFECTED:**    **GENERAL**  
                          **X DEDICATED**  
                          **FEDERAL**

**IMPACT:** State

**Summary of Legislation:** This bill provides that a licensed commercial animal dealer is not exempt from the law requiring certain persons to obtain a state wild animal permit. The bill allows the Director of the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) to adopt rules that: (1) require a permit for each harmful or dangerous wild animal; or (2) allow one permit for all the wild animals contained in a single location. (Current law requires a separate permit for each harmful or dangerous wild animal.)

**Effective Date:** July 1, 2015.

**Explanation of State Expenditures:** This bill would require the revision of an existing rule and could impact the DNR's cost of issuing permits and conducting inspections. The number of wild animal possession permits could increase due to the provision that certain licensed commercial animal dealers would no longer be exempt from the requirement to obtain a wild animal permit. However, the overall number of permits issued could decrease if the DNR adopts rules requiring only one permit for all wild animals contained in a single location versus the current rules that require a permit for each animal. Inspection costs associated with 13 potentially affected USDA-licensed commercial animal dealers would increase. DNR estimates that the cost of inspections may range from \$88 to \$264, depending on the number of animals contained at a location. The DNR should be able to fulfill the additional duties required by the bill within the current level of available resources.

**Additional Information:** A search on the USDA website for commercial licenses, including exotic felines, bears, and wolves (species required to have a permit), showed 26 licensees located in Indiana. Of the 26 total,

7 had been cancelled. The remaining 19 break down as follows: (1) 3 B licenses (brokers, dealers, etc.) and (2) 16 C licenses (exhibition).

Of the 16 C licenses, 5 are city zoos, which are exempt from the permit requirement under the current statute. The remaining 11 C licensees and the 3 B licensees would potentially be required to apply for DNR wild animal possession permits.

**Explanation of State Revenues:** *Permit Fees* - Revenue generated from the \$10 wild animal possession permit fee will be minimally impacted to the extent that the bill may affect the number of initial possession permits issued by the DNR. There is no fee for the renewal of a permit. The amount of the fee may not be more than is reasonably necessary to generate revenue sufficient to offset costs incurred by the DNR. The change in permit fee revenue will ultimately depend on the rules adopted under this bill.

Permit fees are deposited in the state Fish and Wildlife Fund. Permits must be renewed annually, and inspections are conducted annually. Currently, DNR issues an average of about 70 new wild animal possession permits each year.

**Explanation of Local Expenditures:**

**Explanation of Local Revenues:**

**State Agencies Affected:** Department of Natural Resources.

**Local Agencies Affected:**

**Information Sources:** Department of Natural Resources.

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